

Serial No.: 10/065,285
Attorney Docket No.: F-560

Patent

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REMARKS**1. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer, canceled claims 6, 16 and 18-19 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new claims 21-24. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 20-24 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 9 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,456,740 B1 to Carini, et al. ("Carini '740").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, but in order to expedite prosecution have amended claims 1 and 9 and the rejection is moot. Applicant has canceled claims 16 and 18-19.

With regard to amended claims 1 and 9, the cited reference does not teach or suggest at least "determining if the user is authorized to use the form template."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1, 9 and 17.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-8 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,456,740 B1 to Carini, et al. ("Carini '740") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,040 B1 to Mattaway, et al. ("Mattaway '040").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 and the rejection to

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the associated dependent claims is moot. Regarding claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest at least: "determining if the user is authorized to use the form template."

Furthermore, regarding claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest "wherein the form serial number identifies a particular instance of a use of a form template."

Applicants have canceled claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 2-5, 7-8 and 10-15.

4. New Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that the new dependent claims 21-23 are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons stated above with reference to the respective independent claims. New Independent claim 24 is patentable over the cited references because the cited art does not teach or suggest at least:

"processing the strokes in order to determine a subset of the user strokes consisting of form identification data by searching the stroke data for predetermined symbols associated with form identification data; ...

wherein the subset of strokes is not located in a fixed location on the digital paper form. "

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-24 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-5, 7-15, 17 and 20-24 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

5. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

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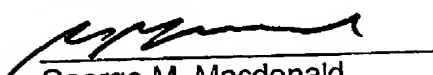
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

6. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment other than that associated with the enclosed petition for extension of time to respond. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-560.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-560.

Respectfully submitted,


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